

# AMERICAN LINERS LIKELY TO CARRY GUNS OF U. S. NAVY

**FINAL**  
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**FINAL**  
EDITION

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To-Day's Weather—FAIR AND COLDER

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## "I'LL SIT HERE TILL KINGDOM COME," GERARD'S ANSWER TO GERMAN THREAT

### NAVY PLANS TO SUPPLY GUNS TO U. S. LINERS FOR DEFENSE; HAS 3 AND 6 INCH RIFLES

Application Made for Arming  
of American Line Ships,  
Including the St. Louis.

HITCH ABOUT GUNNERS.

Department Considers Effect  
of Trained Rifle Crews on  
Status of Craft.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—P. A. S. Franklin, President of the International Mercantile Marine Company, to-day made formal application to the Navy Department for guns to arm the passenger liners of the American line.

The St. Louis and St. Paul have been detained in New York pending the attitude of the Government regarding the arming of American ships.

Franklin's request states that the company has been unable to find guns elsewhere. It is indicated that the Navy Department, while opposed to any project of conveying merchantmen through the prohibited submarine zone, favors furnishing such ships with guns for their own defense. Inasmuch as the Government has recognized that naval stores are the only supply of naval guns, it has been held that obtaining guns from that source does not alter the private or commercial character of a ship.

It was stated officially that the Navy Department has a considerable number of old model three-inch to six-inch rifles available for arming merchant ships, but not enough for the conversion of all ships it would require in war and also to furnish defensive armament for all merchantmen.

The question of supplying trained gun crews for merchantmen is more difficult. There is objection to withdrawing men from the active service of the navy at this time and there is also some question as to what effects such a step would have on the status of a ship. French shipowners furnished guns by their navy were required to make oath that they were to be handled by civilian crews.

Possibility that the navy might supply guns indirectly through loan or sale to ship owners has received some consideration, but a preference for direct action by the department in placing the guns aboard is indicated by the ships' owners.

Senator La Follette, Republican, offered a joint resolution to-day to make unlawful the arming of American merchant ships while the United States is not at war. He asked that the resolution lay on the table to be called up later.

Navy Reported Ready to Arm Sea-Going Tugs.

GALVESTON, Tex., Feb. 12.—The United States Navy has completed arrangements for arming all sea-going tugs at Galveston and other Gulf and Atlantic ports, according to a naval official here to-day. He said that an ample quantity of six and three pound rapid fire and ammunition was available.

Major Gault a Hero With One Leg: He Is Now Going to Ft.

MONTREAL, Feb. 12.—Major Hamilton Gault, who organized the famous Canadian light infantry regiment known as the "Princess Patricia's," returned to Montreal to-day a hero with only one leg, but asserting that his fighting days are not over. He announced that as soon as he has entirely recovered from wounds obtained in many battles he would join the flying corps.

Two Austrian Seaplanes Brought Down.

ROME (via Paris), Feb. 12, 12:20 A. M.—It is officially announced that two Austrian seaplanes which were scouting off the Albanian coast were shot down near Sano. One was captured and the other sunk. Two of their crews were captured.

### FIRE ON NOORDAM AT PIER TRAPS SIX MEN, KILLING ONE

Firemen, Wearing Gas Masks,  
Rescue Five Overcome in  
Coal Bunkers.

Fire in the coal bunkers of the Holland-America liner Noordam at the pier of the line in Hoboken this afternoon generated gases which killed one man and overcame five others, one of whom is in danger of death at St. Mary's Hospital. The dead man is Jan Kurpurshoek, a coal passer, of Rotterdam. Francis Siminos, a fireman, is the man in the hospital.

It is reported in Hoboken that the fire was preceded by an explosion, but this report lacks confirmation. The Noordam has been practically interned, awaiting orders from the home office in Holland, but coal has been taken on, covering what coal was left in the bunkers from the last voyage to this port.

From the best accounts available it appears that six men were in the bunkers trimming coal when gas overcame them. Soon afterward a blaze developed and smoke poured up from below. A still alarm was turned in from the pier and Hoboken firemen responded.

The sailors aboard had been unable to descend to the coal bunkers because of the smoke, gas and heat, but firemen wearing gas masks went below and brought out the six who had been trapped. Kurpurshoek was dead when brought on deck.

The Holland-America line pier is just north of the piers of the North German Lloyd, and the fire drew a great crowd of members of the crews of the German ships. All sorts of rumors soon gained currency, but the Hoboken fire authorities are of the opinion that the fire was started by spontaneous combustion.

Since the great fire of June, 1900, any sort of a blaze in the vicinity of the Hoboken piers is an event of great importance along the Jersey water front. The Noordam blaze was drowned out after several hours.

### CEDRIC OFF TO WAR ZONE; RICH PRIZE FOR A U BOAT

White Star Liner Carries 12,000  
Tons of Contraband, 5,000 Bags  
Mail, but No Passengers.

Carrying 12,000 tons of contraband, but no passengers, the steamship Cedric of the White Star line, sailed for Liverpool this afternoon. She also takes with her 5,000 bags of United States mail that were to have gone on the American liners St. Louis and St. Paul, whose sailings have been cancelled.

The fact that the Cedric is heading straight for the danger zone and that the German Government is undoubtedly keeping track of her movements, did not appear to disturb those about the White Star line dock at Fourteenth Street. The work of loading the vessel continued in a businesslike way until a short time before she was ready to start.

Her contraband includes munitions, automobiles, barbed wire and provisions.

### 20 MAY HAVE DIED IN HOTEL FIRE AS MANY LEAP FOR LIFE

Sudden Blaze Envelops Min-  
neapolis Structure and  
Escape Is Cut Off.

WOMEN AMONG VICTIMS.

Temperature of 10 Below  
Adds to Suffering at Min-  
neapolis Blaze.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 12.—It is estimated that twenty persons lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the Kentwood Hotel, a semi-fashionable, residential four-story building at Hennepin Avenue and Twelfth Street, early to-day. More than a score more were injured, some seriously, by leaping from the top floors of the structure when the one fire escape on the building, which was in the rear, became heated.

One woman, Mrs. Lucile Squire, jumped to her death from the third floor. Police and fire department officials believe that nearly a score of persons were precipitated into the basement by crumbling floors and buried in the debris, over which thick layers of ice had formed.

Many of the seventy-six guests were not traced at 10 o'clock to-day, and the actual death list probably will never be known.

The fire, which apparently started in the basement, spread rapidly and soon the building was enveloped in flames. The stairways were impassable and people rushed to the windows. While figures hung from many windows, others shot through the air into nets and snowdrifts. One woman, her night clothing aflame, rushed from a group of hysterical guests on the top floor and dropped out of the window into a snowdrift. She may live.

A number of children were dropped from windows into the arms of spectators. None was seriously hurt. Harry Jensen and his wife crawled to a window ledge on the top floor. For a moment they paused, then Jensen embraced his wife and together they leaped to the street while spectators cheered. Mrs. Jensen was badly injured, but her husband was not seriously hurt.

"We are at sea as to the number of deaths," said Ernest D. Stalker, proprietor of the hotel. "Until the survivors are checked up the death list will be unknown." Chief Klinger declared recovery of bodies was unlikely, adding that identification would be impossible even if the bodies were dug from the ruins.

While several of the injured were in a serious condition, it was reported at the City Hospital that most of them would recover. One woman who became hysterical after being rescued ran down the street screaming, and her feet were frozen before she was overtaken. Others, garbed in night attire, suffered intensely in the ten below zero temperature.

### A DAY FOR IRELAND IN BRITISH COMMONS

Redmond to Move That It Is Es-  
sential to Grant Free Institutions  
Promised to Erin.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Government agreed to-day to set aside a day for discussion in the House of Commons of the Irish administration, as requested by the Nationalists.

John Redmond, the Nationalist leader, asked the Government last week to arrange for an early discussion of a motion to the effect that it was essential without further delay to confer on Ireland the free institutions long promised her.

For Racing Entries See Page 4.

### YARROWDALE MEN HELD AS HOSTAGES, GERMANY ADMITS

Release Delayed Until Status  
of Crews of Interned Ships  
Is Officially Known.

RELEASE WAS PLEDGED.

Washington Explains That  
Merchant Ships and Crews  
Are Not Interfered With

BERLIN, Feb. 12 (by wireless, via Sayville).—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann to-day informed the Associated Press that he had requested the Swiss Government to make inquiry in Washington regarding the status of the crews of interned German ships in American ports.

Pending an answer the seventy-two Americans taken by the German raider and brought in by the Yarrowdale, whose release had been agreed to, are being held in Germany, the Foreign Secretary stated.

"We could not consent to the release of the Yarrowdale prisoners, which was taken to be agreed to a week ago," said the Foreign Secretary. "These men had been taken off armed merchantmen and their status had been established. They will be liberated just as soon as we learn the fate of the German crews in American ports."

Herr Zimmermann reaffirmed his previous statement that the Americans now in Germany will be permitted to move about unmolested and be perfectly free to leave the country whenever they desire, even if the break threatens to reach the ultimate stage. This intention is based on the impression prevailing here that the United States is not contemplating any steps with respect to German civilians that might compel Germany to reconsider the position she has now definitely taken.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—There are two classes of German ships in American ports. Those interned are war vessels such as the commerce raiders Prinz Eitel Friedrich, Kronprinz Wilhelm and such naval vessels as the gunboats Cormorant at Guam and Geier at Honolulu. The crews of these vessels, as well as the ships, being part of the German naval forces which have taken refuge in neutral harbors, are interned as prisoners for the duration of the war under provisions of international law and The Hague conventions.

The status of the war-bound German merchantmen is different, and so is the status of their crews. The merchant ships are not interned in any sense of the word, but are remaining in harbor of refuge. They are free to put to sea at any time and take their chances with the enemy warships. Their crews are in the same status as any other aliens coming to the United States.

### \$200,000 TO BE ASKED FOR FOOD INVESTIGATION

That Amount Will Be Necessary  
for a Thorough Investigation as  
to the High Cost of Living.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—President Wilson will be asked to approve a \$200,000 appropriation for the food price investigation to be conducted by the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Agriculture, at his direction.

That amount, it was said to-day, will be necessary to carry on an inquiry thorough enough to develop whether anti-trust laws have been violated, thereby causing a national protest against the high cost of living.

### Ambassador Who Defied Berlin, Demanding Exit for Americans

"I told Montgelas I would sit there in Berlin until kingdom come and not leave until all Americans were permitted free exit from Germany."—Ambassador Gerard's statement to-day to newspaper correspondents in Berlin, reporting his interview with chief of the American Division of the German Foreign Office.



AMBASSADOR  
JAMES W. GERARD.  
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### FOUR SHIPS SUNK, ONE OF 4,227 TONS, U BOAT TOLL TO-DAY

All Victims British, the Largest  
Being the Netherlee From  
Philadelphia.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The sinking of the British steamship Netherlee, of 4,227 gross tons, is reported by Lloyd's.

The Netherlee sailed from Philadelphia Jan. 21 for Dunkirk, France.

Another British steamer, the sinking of which was reported to-day, was the Lycia, a steel screw vessel of 2,715 tons, registered at Liverpool and owned by the Cunard Company.

Lloyd's this afternoon also announced that the British steamship Voltaire, of 499 tons gross, and Olivia, of 242 tons gross, had been sunk. Chief Engineer Sallagh of the Olivia, was killed and two other members of the crew were injured.

### CARRANZA WRITES A NOTE TO NEUTRAL POWERS

Calls on Them to Send No Food-  
stuffs or Munitions to War-  
ring European Powers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Gen. Carranza has sent a note to the United States, Argentina, Brazil and Chile, as well as to all other neutral nations, asking them to join in an agreement to prohibit the export from their countries to the warring European nations of foodstuffs and munitions of war.

### EAVESTONE'S LIFEBOATS NOT SHELLED, SAYS BERLIN

Total of Twenty-three Vessels of  
30,000 Tonnage Is Reported  
Sunk on Feb. 9.

BERLIN (via Sayville wireless), Feb. 12.—"No German submarine ever fired at lifeboats, nor will one do so in the future," declared an official press bureau statement to-day, denying the British versions of the sinking of the steamer Eavestone. The statement says:

"The British Daily Telegraph on Jan. 21 says: 'According to sworn statements of eye-witnesses, a German submarine fired at the lifeboats of a sunken ship.'"

"Evidently this is about the British steamer Eavestone. As soon as the submarine reports all details about this question will be given."

"This British report is a new, but useless attempt to stifle the memory of the disgraceful deeds of the British barbarians."

"Christiania reports the Norwegian steamer Sortland was fired at by two British torpedoes boats while within Norwegian waters, declares another press bureau report to-day."

"Among seven steamers and three sailing ships reported sunk by German submarines on Feb. 9, declares the press agency, two steamers carried metal, another corn, another nats, another provisions. Of the sailing ships two carried victuals for England. Furthermore, ten steamers and thirteen sailing ships, with altogether 30,000 tons and several trailers were sunk."

### RELATIONS WITH BERLIN ARE BROKEN BY CHINA

LONDON, Feb. 12.—China has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany, it was authoritatively reported here this afternoon.

THE WORLD TRAVEL BUREAU  
Agents: Folger (New York), Bond  
Sole Pass Book N. Y. City  
Tickets: Europe, Central and South American  
Steamship Lines, Hapag and other lines  
every day and night. Travel by car and money  
orders for sale. Telephone: REsman 4000.—Advt.

### AMBASSADOR'S FIRM STAND FORCED BERLIN TO LET U. S. CORRESPONDENTS LEAVE

Departure of Many Americans Is  
Being Delayed for Possible Re-  
taliatory Measures in Case U. S.  
Declares War or Interns Ger-  
man Citizens.

### GERARD CABLES WILSON DETAILS OF THREATS

[This is the first despatch received direct from Ackerman since he passed beyond control of the German censorship. He is a member of the immediate party with Ambassador Gerard.]

By Carl W. Ackerman.

BERNE, via Paris, Feb. 12.—The German Government intends to delay departure of Americans still in Berlin in order to have such citizens in hand for retaliatory measures in case America declares war and interns German citizens in the United States. Permission for Americans eventually to depart was only obtained by the strong stand of American Ambassador Gerard.

From neutral soil to-day it is possible to reveal the pressure which the German Government brought powerfully to bear on the American Ambassador to force from him signing of a treaty.

### DEMAND MADE ON AMBASSADOR.

Practically a demand was made upon Ambassador Gerard by Count Montgelas, Chief of the American Division of the German Foreign Office, to sign a treaty in effect guaranteeing permission for German ships to leave American harbors in case of war, this "ultimatum" being backed up with the threat to hold American correspondents as hostages if such action were not taken.

Gerard, it is reliably reported, told the German official who brought this threat that if Americans were forced to remain in Germany America would regard such action as a cause for war. He refused to sign.

Then the American newspaper correspondents ascertained that they were likely to be held as hostages in Germany for America's guaranteeing of the German ships' safety.

### SAID HE'D STAY TILL KINGDOM COME.

When the American correspondents in Berlin went to Gerard in a body and told him of what they had heard, Gerard replied: "I told Montgelas that I would sit here in Berlin until Kingdom Come and not leave until all Americans were permitted free exit."

After this the Berlin officials granted passports to those desiring to leave with Gerard. The correspondents obtained theirs only four hours before the time for departure.

A large number of Americans still remain in Berlin and are anxious to leave, but the indications when the Gerard party left were that they would be delayed days and even weeks. The Berlin Government, fearing that America may declare war, apparently desires to have a few American citizens within Germany on which retaliatory measures might be exacted in case Germans in America are interned.

Gerard's code messages to-day carried details of Germany's threat to hold American newspaper correspondents in Germany as hostages unless the American Ambassador would sign a treaty practically guaranteeing in case of war that German ships now in American harbors would be permitted to leave.

A despatch from Washington says this action of Ambassador Gerard has the complete sanction of the State Department, whose officials say Germany had no right to make such demands following the formal break.

It was on Monday that he first breached the subject of a treaty to be signed by the American Ambassador. Gerard promptly refused.

Then Montgelas warned him if Germany's proposal was not accepted it would be difficult for Americans to leave Berlin. Gerard continued firm in his refusal.

On the Wednesday succeeding this Monday conference the passports of American correspondents were taken up by the Foreign Office.